

# IKE SAYS HIS REGIME AIDED CUBAN EXILES

## Warns Against 'Witch-Hunting' Probe To Fix Blame

By ERNEST P. GURGURSON  
(Sun Staff Correspondent)

Gettysburg, Pa., May 4 — Former President Eisenhower acknowledged today that his Administration had started the equipping and training of Cuban exile soldiers to move against Premier Fidel Castro.

But because there was no individual or group to assume leadership of the refugee troops, the United States went no further than that during his time in office, Eisenhower states.

He warned strongly against any public "witch-hunting" investigation to fix the blame for the ill-fated invasion effort.

Eisenhower also disclosed that he had accepted State Department advice and canceled a planned trip to Japan late this year because of rising world tension.

**Press Conference**  
Ruddy and seemingly in the best of health, the former President conferred at his office here with Republican congressional leaders, then joined them at his first full-scale press conference since he left the White House 101 days ago.

Despite a series of cues from the visiting politicians, Eisenhower declined to issue any partisan criticism of President Kennedy's policies or performance so far.

He offered only the vaguest kind of good wishes to former Vice President Nixon, defeated for the Presidency last fall and apparently anxious to try again in 1964.

Senator Dirksen (R., Ill.) and Representative Halleck (R., Ind.), minority leaders on Capitol Hill, dwelt heavily on domestic matters in their portion of the press conference. But Eisenhower's portion was devoted largely to Cuba.

### Comment By Udall

His statement that his Administration had initiated the training and equipping of exile troops was joined by Senator Stewart L. Udall, (D., N.M.), GOP national chairman, and other Congressional leaders for a conference lasting almost two hours.

No one denied that the arming and preparation of the force started under Eisenhower, but many Republicans saw Udall's words as an attempt to place part of the blame for the fiasco on Eisenhower. Udall denied any such intention, and President Kennedy twice assumed full responsibility himself.

Asked whether a "full public post-mortem" of the Cuban affair was necessary, Fix showed said "Let's do it now" still first, and the Senator said Considerable damage to our prestige, had been "pretty badly shaken" by the Cuban affair, but

He added that his own opinion that he was proud of the Republic of the value of the U.S. Americans presenting a united front military plane flights over Cuba with Mr. Kennedy on the matter. He had not been disturbed by the USSR and investigation that had told Eisenhower that "not one found the downing of any of the Kennedy proposals has given up the information gathered, nor can we find any evidence by the U.S. flight to provide of real support for the Kennedy program by the American people."

**"We're Not There"**  
Eisenhower told him that he had been asked of the Cuban situation, asking what "the hell" he was doing. "But that there was no time to take over the country."

It might be helpful for potential enemies to know "what we'll take and what we'll not take" in world trouble spots, he stated. But he said he was not sure whether Congressional rejections of support like those supporting him in the Far East and Middle East situations would be helpful to Mr. Kennedy now.

"The United States stands firmly behind the President in his effort to prevent the solidifying of a Communist stronghold," the General declared.

He would not make any comments on whether Mr. Kennedy should or should not use United States troops in Laos, explaining that he was not now receiving the regular reports on world affairs that were furnished to him in the White House.

### Visit Canceled

Eisenhower had planned to visit Japan as a private citizen this fall, after calling off a scheduled trip there in 1960 because of anti-American riots. But when questioned he said he had canceled this year's visit, too.

The State Department in Washington explained that the plans for a renewed democratic

Dirksen and Halleck both boasted with Eisenhower at his office on the edge of the Gettysburg College campus, then they tended to corroborate a similar comment by Stewart L. Udall, (R., N.Y.), GOP national chairman, and other Congressional leaders for a conference lasting almost two hours.

The press conference that followed was this week's version of the "Foy and Charlie Show," which the minority leaders normally conduct on Thursdays at the Capitol.

### "Great Shaken"

Almost 100 reporters and photographers were present at the Majestic Theater, where "The Great Imposter" ("Mickey fiction seems farcical") is the current attraction.

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He listed "deficit spending, increased Government controls, increases in the Government payroll, more welfare stadium and eventually more taxes" as the gist of the Kennedy program.

Halleck added that the Kennedy program "has laid a big egg so far... I think it has just about killed itself to death."